



June 11, 2020

Dear Kentucky Licensees and Physical Therapy Patients,

By letter dated April 24, 2020, which was posted on KBPT's website and emailed to all individuals credentialed in Kentucky, I shared guidance provided by Governor Beshear's administration due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Specifically, this guidance provided that, when physical therapy outpatient clinics were permitted to reopen on April 27, 2020, they were obligated to observe various requirements related to the safe delivery of care and treatment. One of the requirements that applied to "high touch clinical settings," such as outpatient physical therapy, included the condition that "a therapist may only treat one patient at a time."

On June 11, 2020, KBPT received confirmation from Kentucky's Office of Inspector General that a therapist ***may now begin treating more than one patient at a time, with all patients being physically separated by at least six (6) feet, and with the therapist continuing to observe all previous requirements, as restated below:***

1. Maximize telehealth rather than in-person services;
2. Prohibit visitors allowed except when necessary for end-of-life, vulnerable population, minors, etc. and then only to minimum essential extent;
3. Eliminate traditional waiting/common seating arenas and use non-traditional alternative (e.g., parking lot lobby);
4. Maintain social distancing greater than six feet in all settings where people must wait and employ other steps to minimize direct contact between individuals within the health care setting;
5. Screen all health care workers, patients, and others for temperature and COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival for shift or visit. Require staff to stay home if sick;
6. Plan for and ensure enhanced workplace sanitizing;
7. Plan for and ensure enhanced hand hygiene (washing and sanitizing) compliance;
8. Provide easily accessible hand sanitizer throughout the office/building;
9. Procure necessary PPE via normal supply chains;
10. All health care providers, support technicians/personnel who are responsible for cleaning/sanitizing patient treatment areas, and other office staff within the health care office/facility must wear a surgical/procedural mask if they will be within six feet of a patient;
11. All patients and other persons in health care office/facility must wear a surgical/procedural mask while in the acute care hospital or ambulatory surgical center; and
12. Patients in all other health care settings may wear either a surgical/procedural mask or cloth mask/face covering.

I again would like to thank Governor Beshear, DPH Commissioner Dr. Stephen Stack, Inspector General Adam Mather, and the staff with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for their ongoing leadership and guidance provided to the therapeutic community during this challenging recovery period.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Pennington". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Tom A. Pennington, P.T.  
Chair, Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy